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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION Q NORTH KOREA - TOKYO

LEAD STORIES: Monday morning's moderate Tokyo Shimbun front-paged a report from Moscow concerning Secretary of State Rice's meeting Saturday with Russian President Putin.

¶1. "Will North Korea Abandon Its Nuclear Program?" An editorial in the moderate Tokyo Shimbun commented (10/22): "North Korea is engaged in a diplomatic tug-of-war with its neighbors after conducting a nuclear test. Can Kim Jong Il change course and abandon his country's nuclear program? China holds the key.... UNSC Resolution 1718 applies to the movement into or out of North Korea of 'people, materials, and money' linked to WMD development. The US will further tighten financial sanctions, while Japan has implemented measures going beyond what is called for in the UNSC resolution. The European Union (EU) has also pledged that it will implement 1718 in a resolute manner. It is China that holds the key. Chinese President Hu stated, 'North Korea must be made to face the strong reaction of the international community,' a very weighty statement given that China holds the power of life or death over its neighbor.... If in the end Kim Jong Il has no intention of giving up North Korea's nuclear program, China must take another step. This could entail conveying to North Korea that Beijing would not be displeased with a change of leadership there so long as the DPRK does not fall into chaos."

SCHIEFFER